What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for presenting, and monitoring

2 telecommunication transaction records via a thin web

3 client interface, the apparatus comprising:

4 a billing server, configured to maintain the

5 telecommunication transaction records, and to

6 query the telecommunication transaction records in

7 response to a request for prescribed data; and

8 a web server, coupled to said billing server,

9 configured to send telecommunication transaction

10 information to said billing server, to request

11 said prescribed data in response to a user command

12 via the thin web client interface, and to provide

13 said prescribed data to the user;

14 wherein said prescribed data distinguishes between a

15 first telecommunication transaction record and a

16 second telecommunication transaction record.

2. The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein each of

2 the telecommunication transaction records documents a

3 specific telecommunication event.

3. The apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein, upon

2 execution of said specific telecommunication event,

3   said web server sends said telecommunication

4   transaction information to said billing server and said

5   billing server generates a specific telecommunication

6   transaction record.

1   4.   The apparatus as recited in claim 3, wherein said

2   specific telecommunication event comprises a local toll

3   call, a long distance call, or a calling card call.

1   5.   The apparatus as recited in claim 4, wherein said

2   telecommunication transaction information comprises an

3   account number, a calling number, a transaction date, a

4   transaction time, a called number, a called place, a

5   transaction duration, and a transaction cost.

1   6.   The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the thin

2   web client interface is a web browser capable of

3   processing HTML-compatible web pages.

1   7.   The apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein said web

2   server is a computer that transmits and receives data

3   packets over a data network to provide

4   telecommunication services for said user.

1   8.   The apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein said web

2   server transmits HTML-compatible web pages over said

3   data network to allow said user to view said prescribed

4   data using the thin web client interface.

1   9.   The apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein said web

2   server receives said user command over said data

3   network.

1   10. The apparatus as recited in claim 9, wherein said web

2   server employs TCP/IP protocol to transmit and receive

3   said data packets.

1   11. The apparatus as recited in claim 10, wherein said

2   billing server maintains said telecommunication

3   transaction records in a data base.

1   12. The apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein said data

2   base is accessed by an Open Data Base Connectivity

3   (ODBC)-compatible query.

1   13. The apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein said user

2   specifies said prescribed data by requesting a query of

3   said data base for selected transaction records that

4   match parameters of said query, said parameters

5   including a calling line field, a number called field,

6   a called place field, and a transaction cost field,

7   wherein said fields are entered by said user and

8   transmitted to said web server via the thin web client

9   interface.

1 14. An interactive telecommunications billing mechanism,

2   comprising:

3   a billing server, for maintaining a transaction data

4   base, and for querying said transaction data base

5   to retrieve selected transaction records that

6   match parameters of a query, wherein each of said

7   selected transaction records comprises:

8   a line field, documenting a first telephone number

9   from which a call originates;

10   a number field, documenting a second telephone

11   number to which said call is placed;

12   a place field, documenting a location

13   corresponding to said number field; and

14   a cost field, documenting a cost of a

15   corresponding call event; and

16 a web server, coupled to said billing server, for

17   providing said query in response to a user command

18   received from a data network, and for transmitting

19   said selected transaction records to a user over

20   said data network for viewing via a web browser.

15. The interactive telecommunications billing mechanism as
    recited in claim 14, wherein said each of said selected
    transaction records documents a specific call event.

16. The interactive telecommunications billing mechanism as
    recited in claim 15, wherein upon execution of said
    specific call event, said billing server generates a
    corresponding specific transaction record.

17. The interactive telecommunications billing mechanism as
    recited in claim 14, wherein said web browser is
    compatible with web pages generated using hypertext
    markup language (HTML).

18. The interactive telecommunications billing mechanism as
    recited in claim 16, wherein said web server is a
    computer that transmits and receives data packets over
    said data network to provide call events for said user.

19. The interactive telecommunications billing mechanism as
    recited in claim 18, wherein said web server transmits
    web pages over said data network to allow said user to
    view said selected transaction records using said web
    browser.

1 20. The interactive telecommunications billing mechanism as

2   recited in claim 19, wherein said web server employs

3   TCP/IP protocol to transmit and receive said data

4   packets.

1 21. The interactive telecommunications billing mechanism as

2   recited in claim 20, wherein said query of said

3   transaction data base is an ODBC-compatible query.

1 22. The interactive telecommunications billing mechanism as

2   recited in claim 21, wherein said user command is

3   generated based upon query parameters entered by said

4   user on a web page hosted by said web browser.

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23. An apparatus for accessing selected telecommunications

records over the internet from a user computer that is

executing a web browser application, said apparatus

comprising:

a billing server, for maintaining telecommunications

records, and for providing the selected

telecommunications records in response to a user

request, said billing server comprising:

data base logic, for storing said

telecommunications records, wherein each of

said telecommunications records documents a

specific telecommunications event;

maintenance logic, for providing said data base

logic with a new telecommunications record

corresponding to a new telecommunications

event; and

query logic, for searching said telecommunications

records in accordance with parameters

prescribed by said user request, and for

retrieving the selected telecommunications

records; and

22   a web server, coupled to said billing server, for

23   receiving said user request over the internet, and

24   for providing the selected telecommunications

25   records to the user computer over the internet.

1   24. The apparatus as recited in claim 23, wherein said web

2   server transmits a first web page over the internet to

3   allow the user computer to display the selected

4   telecommunications records.

1   25. The apparatus as recited in claim 24, wherein said

2   query logic is ODBC-compatible.

1   26. The apparatus as recited in claim 25, wherein said

2   parameters are entered in fields of a second web page

3   displayed on the user computer.

27. A method for providing access to telecommunications

billing records in a billing computer over the

internet, the access being obtained via a remote

computer that is executing a thin web client

application, the method comprising:

a) maintaining the telecommunications billing records

in a data base, the telecommunications billing

records documenting individual telecommunication

events;

b) querying the data base in accordance with parameters

provided by a completed search parameter entry web

page; and

d) transmitting a search results web page to display

the telecommunications billing records on the

remote computer.

28. The method as recited in claim 27, wherein the

telecommunications billing records document charges

associated with toll calls.

29. The method as recited in claim 28, wherein TCP/IP

protocol is used to transmit the web pages over the

internet.

30. A method for providing a user with detailed long

   distance telephonic transaction information via a thin

   web client, the method comprising:

   a)   providing a data server, coupled to local

        telephone switches, for tracking long distance

        telephone transactions for a plurality of

        telephone numbers;

   b)   providing a web server, coupled to the data

        server, for presenting to the user the detailed

        long distance telephonic transaction information;

        and

   c)   providing the user with a customizable event

        monitor, coupled to the web server and to the data

        server, the event monitor for alerting the user

        when telephone transactions meet a specified

        criteria.

31. The method as recited in claim 30 wherein the long

   distance telephonic transaction information comprises

   duration, date, and number called for each transaction.

32. The method as recited in claim 30 wherein the thin web

   client comprises Internet Explorer or Netscape

   Navigator.

1   33. The method as recited in claim 30 wherein the data

2   server and the web server are software programs.

1   34. The method as recited in claim 33 wherein the data

2   server and the web server both execute on the same

3   hardware device.

1   35. The method as recited in claim 30 wherein the event

2   monitor is a customizable software program for

3   automatically querying the data server for telephone

4   transactions that meet the specified criteria.

1   36. The method as recited in claim 30 wherein the specified

2   criteria comprises a total of long distance charges for

3   one or more of the plurality of telephone numbers,

4   within a specified time period.

1   37. The method as recited in claim 30 further comprising:

2   d)   alerting the user according to customizable alert

3   options.

1   38. The method as recited in claim 37 wherein the

2   customizable alert options comprise email, fax or voice

3   notification.

39. A long distance transaction event monitor, coupled to a

2   telephone network, for alerting a user when specified

3   alert criteria relating to telephony transactions have

4   been met, the event monitor comprising:

5   a web interface, for allowing a user to specify the

6   alert criteria;

7   query logic, coupled to said web interface, for causing

8   the specified alert criteria to query the

9   telephony transactions; and

10 an event monitor, coupled to said query logic, for

11   generating alert messages to the user when said

12   query logic determines that the specified alert

13   criteria is met by the telephony transactions.

40. The long distance transaction event monitor, as recited

2   in claim 39 wherein said web interface comprises a web

3   browser such as Internet Explorer or Netscape

4   Navigator.

41. The long distance transaction event monitor, as recited

2   in claim 39 wherein said query logic comprises:

3   an HTML configuration screen for allowing the user to

4   provided the specified alert criteria to the event

5   monitor; and

6   an SQL engine, coupled to said HTML configuration

7   screen, for presenting the specified alert

8   criteria to a data server in structured query

9   format.

1   42. The long distance transaction event monitor, as recited

2   in claim 39 further comprising:

3   a data server, coupled to said query logic, for storing

4   the telephony transactions, and for providing the

5   transactions to said query logic, as needed.

1   43. The long distance transaction event monitor, as recited

2   in claim 39 wherein said alert messages comprise email

3   or fax alerts.

1   44. The long distance transaction event monitor, as recited

2   in claim 43 wherein said alert messages are configured

3   by the user via said web interface.

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